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Founding Moments Lecture Series

Roger Williams University School of Law

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RALPH R. PAPITTO SCHOOL OF LAW

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
RALPH R. PAPITTO
SCHOOL OF LAW



*1993-2003
Celebrating the
10th Anniversary
of the School of Law*

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends of Legal Education:

As one of my first acts as Dean, and in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of the founding of our School of Law, it is my great pleasure to announce the "Founding Moments Series." This annual series will focus on one or more "founding moments," an event or events that marked an important change in the

American legal culture. In this, the inaugural year, we will focus on three such seminal events, in the hope that Roger Williams can be a generative force for discussion and reflection.

The first event will feature Jack Rakove, Professor of History at Stanford University and recipient of the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in History. Professor Rakove's lecture will address two "founding moments:" the incorporation of the concept of separated powers in the United States Constitution, and the proposed amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution to do the same.

The second event is the School of Law's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. We chose to focus on one aspect of that seminal case – the role of African-American lawyers on and in the modern legal profession. That event will feature Professor David B. Wilkins, the Kirkland and Ellis Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and a distinguished panel of black lawyers and judges.

Finally, I am proud to announce the publication, early in 2004, of a special issue of the *Roger Williams University Law Review*. This issue will feature essays and articles from eighteen members of our faculty, and it displays the breadth of interest and quality of scholarship of a fine faculty that we have drawn to our beautiful, waterfront campus over the past decade.

So read on, and if you can, come to Bristol; we'd love to have you join us in our celebration of Founding Moments.

David A. Logan

David A. Logan

Dean and Professor of Law

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

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Founding Moments Lecture Series

Thursday, November 6, 2003

7:15 p.m.
School of Law

Jack N. Rakove

"Puzzling the Greatest Adepts in Political Science:
Or, Perennial Problems of the Separation of Powers"



Linda A. Cierni/Stanford News Service

Jack Rakove is Professor of History at Stanford University. He is the author of five books, including "Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution," for which he received the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in History.

For years, Rhode Island has been the site of a unique and historic struggle over the question whether to incorporate separation of powers into its state

constitution. Soon, Rhode Island's voters will decide that question, and if they vote yes the structure of Rhode Island's government will be changed, perhaps in ways that are currently difficult to predict.

The title of Professor Rakove's talk is based on what James Madison wrote about separation of powers in Federalist No. 37: "Questions daily occur in the course of practice which prove the obscurity which reigns in these subjects, and which puzzle the greatest adepts in political science." Professor Rakove will discuss how Madison and the founders understood the concept of separation of powers, and shed light on some of the puzzling challenges of operationalizing the concept. This event will be co-sponsored by Common Cause of Rhode Island.

Reservations are required by November 1, 2003.

To make reservations for each event, please contact:

Roger Williams University School of Law
Office of Alumni, Programs & Events
(401) 254-4659 Fax: (401) 254-4655
lawevents@rwu.edu

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

2:00 p.m.
School of Law

David B. Wilkins

"The New Social Engineers: The Making of the
Black Corporate Bar and the Dual Legacy of
Brown v. Board of Education"



David Wilkins is the Kirkland and Ellis Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Director of Harvard's Program on the Legal Profession.

To mark the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Professor Wilkins and a distinguished panel will discuss what Professor Wilkins has called the "paradox of opportunity" for black lawyers created by *Brown*. *Brown* established integration as

a means of achieving equality, including integration of the legal profession. *Brown* also established law and lawyers as the primary vehicle for achieving social change. Black lawyers, Professor Wilkins has written, must negotiate this paradox: the opportunity to pursue careers according to their interests and talents and the obligation to pursue *Brown's* social justice mandate.

The panelists are:

Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson, Associate Justice,
Rhode Island Superior Court

Michael Evora, Executive Director,
Rhode Island Commission on Human Rights

Beverly E. Ledbetter, Vice-President and General Counsel,
Brown University

Walter R. Stone, Partner,
Adler, Pollock & Sheehan

Reservations are required by April 7, 2004.